



(BW)(MA-SPIRE/BP-SOLAREX)(SPIR) Spire and BP Solarex Team to Service Chicago and Midwest Solar Energy Market

Business/Technology Editors

BEDFORD, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 10, 2000--Spire Corporation (NASDAQ:SPIR) announced today that it has teamed with BP Solarex to bring a full service solar energy business to Chicago, Illinois. This business, known as Spire Solar Chicago (SSC), will be the first ever solar photovoltaic (PV) module and systems manufacturing business in Chicago.

Spire and BP Solarex will work together to market solar electric systems to residential and commercial customers who can take advantage of incentive programs recently created by the State of Illinois and to bring jobs and the benefits of clean, reliable solar power to the citizens of Chicago and the Midwest. Spire has entered into agreements with the City of Chicago and Commonwealth Edison to provide a cumulative \$8 million worth of solar electric systems. To demonstrate Spire's commitment to the Chicago and Illinois marketplace, Spire agreed to locate a full service module production and systems business in Chicago and recently opened a Chicago office and began the installation of systems.

SSC will offer solar PV electric products for residential, utility-scale, and off-grid applications. BP Solarex has made an investment in Spire's manufacturing equipment that the business will use for manufacturing modules. BP Solarex will also supply SSC with solar cells, materials and system components. Both companies will provide SSC with process technology to produce a variety of PV modules and systems products.

"Spire and BP Solarex are two of the most experienced companies in the global solar industry," said Roger G. Little, president and CEO of Spire. "We look forward to working with BP Solarex to make solar PV a significant contributor to the Midwest's energy mix."

"While the U.S. leads the world in PV production capacity, most of that production is shipped overseas. SSC is an excellent example of local manufacturing of solar PV electric systems creating new solar energy markets," said Harry B. Shimp, president and CEO of BP Solarex.

BP Solarex will build on the business activities of Solarex and BP Solar. A global market share of 20 percent and projected revenues in excess of \$200 million for 2000 position BP Solarex at the forefront of the international solar electric industry. With manufacturing operations in four countries - the USA, Spain, India, and Australia - BP Solarex, a business unit of BP Amoco, will produce approximately 40 megawatts of solar products in 2000. Additional information can be found on our web site at www.bpsolarex.com.

Founded in 1969, Spire Corporation is the world's leading supplier of photovoltaic manufacturing equipment, turnkey production lines, and solar energy businesses.

Visit our web site at www.spirecorp.com

Certain matters discussed in this news release may be forward-looking statements subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risk of dependence on government agencies and other third parties for funding contract research and services, as well as other factors described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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